



curlyleaf pondweed

Potamogeton crispus

Kingdom: Plantae
Division/Phylum: Anthophyta - flowering plants

Features

Curlyleaf pondweed is an aquatic, perennial herb with thick roots. Its stems grow under water. The leaves are alternate, simple, up to three inches long, and up to one-half inch wide. The leaves are wavy or curly along the edges and have a row of small spines.

Natural History

Curlyleaf pondweed grows in standing water in lakes, ponds, and streams. It grows from the shoreline to depths of about 12 feet. It may grow in the fall and winter, flower in late spring, and die down in late July. Curlyleaf pondweed provides valuable waterfowl food. It is rare and local though spreading.

Habitats

Mississippi River; interior rivers and streams; natural lakes and prairie marshes

Iowa Status

uncommon; exotic

Iowa Range

eastern edge of Iowa and Tama and Greene Counties

Bibliography

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.
Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats CD-ROM.